

Tunis hopeful of Arab summit

DOHA (R) — Tunisian Foreign Minister Hedi Mabrouk said Sunday he believed contacts made among Arab leaders at last week's Islamic meeting in Kuwait had created a new climate for the convening of the long-delayed Arab summit. "In the '70s of meetings among Arab leaders in Kuwait, I believe there are now new and better prospect for holding a summit," Mr. Mabrouk told Reuters. The minister, who arrived on Friday from Kuwait, said he was personally optimistic, adding that the current Arab situation required the holding of a such meeting. He regretted Iran's boycott of the 46-member Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) summit and said had Tehran attended, it could have made its point of view more clearly. On Lebanon, Mr. Mabrouk said he was not optimistic for an end to fighting between Amal militiamen and Palestinians for control of refugee camps in Beirut and the south. "This is due to the complex situation in Lebanon and I do not personally blame any party," Mr. Mabrouk said.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Times Foundation

جريدة الأردن اليومية независимая политическая газета

Swarreddahab arrives in Amman

AMMAN (Petra) — The former head of the military council in Sudan, Field Marshal Abdul Rahman Swarreddahab and his wife arrived in Amman Sunday evening on a visit to Jordan upon an invitation of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan. The Sudanese guests were met at the airport by Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief General Sharif Zeid Ibn Shaker, Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Sami Judeh, the secretary general of the Foreign Ministry, the undersecretary of the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs and Sudan's ambassador to Jordan. In a statement upon arrival Marshal Swarreddahab said his visit was for conveying to His Majesty King Hussein, Prince Hassan and the Jordanian people Sudan's appreciation and gratitude for assistance sent to them during their ordeal caused by famine and drought. He said Jordanian-Sudanese relations were very strong and both countries maintained close cooperation. Marshal Swarreddahab is chairman of the board of trustees of Sudan's Open University. He will hold talks at the University of Jordan for bolstering bilateral relations and will also tour archaeological sites in the Kingdom.

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Crown Prince inspects army units

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Sunday made a tour of army units of the Third Royal Armoured Division and inspected training fields, lecture halls and was briefed on the division's activities and training programmes. Prince Hassan met with officers and troops and talked to them about their training. He was accompanied on the tour by the division's commander and senior army officers.

Israelis question Palestinian editor

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Israeli police arrested Palestinian magazine editor Ibrahim Katreen on Sunday on charges of anti-Israeli incitement, police said. He was the second Palestinian editor to be summoned by police in the past two weeks for publishing comments supporting the PLO. Mr. Katreen, editor of Al Awdah weekly, told Reuters he was questioned about an editorial published 11 months ago in favour of the PLO and Palestinian self-determination. He was released on bail after an hour.

Israel names new chief of staff

TEL AVIV (AP) — Major General Dan Shomron, who led Israel's airborne raid to free hijacked passengers from Entebbe, was appointed Sunday as the new military chief-of-staff, a cabinet communique said. Gen. Shomron, who assumes his post on April 19, will take over from Lt. Gen. Moshe Levy who has held the job for the past four years. The appointment, proposed by Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin and approved unanimously by the cabinet, was expected to cause a shake-up in the senior command echelons of the Israeli army.

Muslims clash with Melilla police

MELILLA (R) — Police arrested 27 Muslims, including community leaders, in Spain's North African enclave of Melilla on Sunday after a night of street violence in which six policemen were hurt. Police said they were looking for several more people accused of inciting the disturbances. Muslim youths set fire to six cars and hurled stones and petrol bombs at police Saturday night after a rally to protest at the expulsion of a relative of the community's leader, Aomar Mohammed Dudu.

4 killed in Kabul explosion

KABUL (R) — A powerful car bomb blew up beside the Indian embassy in central Kabul on Sunday, killing four people including two children, official Kabul Radio reported. The radio, monitored in Islamabad, said Afghan Communist Party leader Najib later visited the embassy accompanied by interim President Haji Mohammad Taimani and Foreign Minister Abdal Wakil. Mr. Najib blamed the incident on what he called enemies of Afghanistan and India who wanted to damage relations between the two countries, the radio reported.

INSIDE

- Israel said to have approved \$30 in weapon sales to Iran, page 2
- Lower House to convene Tuesday on wide-ranging draft laws, page 3
- Walid Saadi comments on economic recessions, page 4
- Israel campaigns to bring back 'wandering Israelis', page 5
- Stars and Stripes strengthens lead in America's Cup, page 6
- Arab economist foresees less depressing growth for Gulf states, page 7
- CIA said to have shipped arms to UNITA via Zaire, page 8

King congratulates Iraq on its latest warfront victories

Iraqis celebrate recapture of Fish Lake after routing invading Iranian forces

Combined agency dispatches

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein on Sunday congratulated Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, the Iraqi armed forces and people for their victory against invading Iranians on the southern front near Basra, where Iraqi forces recaptured territory taken by the Iranians in an offensive launched last month.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the King conveyed the congratulations to President Hussein in a telephone conversation he had with the Iraqi leader Sunday evening. The Iraqi leader assured His Majesty of the strong and firm position of the Iraqi armed forces on the warfront and briefed him on the victory they achieved by routing out Iranians

from occupied territory, Petra said.

Iraq, on Sunday reiterated its earlier statements that the Iranian invaders had been driven from an area near Fish Lake, an artificial body of water east of the Iraqi port of Basra.

Iraqi armed forces have fully purged the foothold gained by Iranian troops south of Fish

(Continued on page 2)

Syria and Iran said involved in efforts to determine Waite's fate

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Backstage negotiations involving Syria, Iran and militia leaderships in Lebanon were reported under way Sunday to determine the fate of Anglican church hostage negotiator Terry Waite.

"These bush-hush talks are in high gear," said a senior militia official. "The parties concerned are burning the wires trying to ensure Mr. Waite's safety. Plenty of Syrian and Iranian emissaries are shuttling back and forth."

"The lack of direct word from Mr. Waite since his disappearance two weeks ago has alarmed all sides concerned and every effort is being made to find out about him," said the official, who spoke to AP on condition of anonymity.

Mr. Waite, the personal emissary of Archbishop of Canterbury Robert Runcie, flew to Beirut Jan. 12 on his fifth trip to Lebanon to win freedom for American and other foreign hostages.

He has not been heard or seen since he left the Riviera Hotel in west Beirut on Jan. 20, presumably

At least three Beirut radio sta-

ably to negotiate with Islamic Jihad, that pro-Iranian Shi'ite faction that holds two Americans.

Lebanese socialist leader Walid Jumblatt, whose militia had been in charge of Mr. Waite's security before his disappearance, offered himself as a hostage Saturday to replace Mr. Waite if reports of his replacement were true.

But the Church of England said its envoy had left a message forbidding any rescue mission, ransom payment or substitution of hostages if he were kidnapped.

Church spokeswoman Eve Keatley said the statement from Archbishop Runcie about Mr. Waite's message was issued after London's Sunday Times reported that "Beirut terrorists" were demanding a ransom of \$4 million for Mr. Waite's safe release.

Archbishop Runcie also said on Sunday that he had "no fresh news" about Mr. Waite. "I have had some contact yesterday (Saturday), indirectly. I am very anxious about where he is," he said.

The sources gave no details about the contents of the letter but said the two men, Rudolf Cordes and Alfred Schmidt, had also written to their families in West Germany.

The letters were delivered by an unidentified middleman, the sources said.

The news magazine Spiegel said on Saturday that the two sent letters to Dr. Kohl and their families through an Arab

MEA halts flights to and from Beirut

BEIRUT (AP) — Middle East Airlines (MEA), Lebanon's national carrier, suspended its flight to and from Beirut international airport Sunday and the country's only public air transport facility was closed down indefinitely.

Progress in negotiations on any one team will not be conditional on progress by other teams on other issues.

Negotiations must be based on acceptance of U.N. Resolutions 242 and 338.

Procedures and participants in an international conference must be agreed ahead of time.

The Soviet Union must change its policy restricting Soviet Jewish emigration to take part in the conference.

The Soviet Union must renew diplomatic ties it broke with Israel during the 1967 Middle East war before it can take part in the conference.

U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz has said that an international conference on the Middle East could be useful, but only as a prelude to direct negotiations between Israel and its Arab neighbours.

Speaking to reporters here via satellite from Washington last Thursday, Mr. Shultz said that the Soviet Union's lack of diplomatic relations with Israel and poor record on emigration disqualifies it from taking part in such talks.

The conference must be of short duration.

It cannot impose a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

It cannot cancel any agreement reached by Israel and Arab

Bomb explodes aboard Israeli bus; 9 injured

Masked men spray Gaza girls with acid

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — A bomb exploded Sunday morning on an Israeli bus wounding nine people and many Arabs, were detained by Israeli police for questioning, reports said.

In the occupied Gaza Strip, 12 Palestinian girls were injured when several masked men entered their school and sprayed them with acid.

In another incident in Gaza, an Israeli, believed to be a settler, shot and wounded a Palestinian boy in a shoot-and-run attack.

According to Israeli police, the bomb explosion took place aboard a bus plying between Haifa and Jerusalem at 10 a.m.

A spokesman said the explosion occurred when the bus was about mid-way between Haifa

and Tel Aviv.

An officer at Haifa police said police had rounded up "many people" for questioning, in Haifa and in the city of Hadera near the site of the blast. The officer said all the passengers were interviewed but none were detained.

"As I was driving my Renaut, I suddenly heard an explosion, the bus' rear window flew off, and passengers immediately started screaming. I saw one wounded taken away on a stretcher, and one was treated on the spot," an eyewitness, told Israel radio.

In Tunis, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) claimed to have placed the bomb.

The Palestinian news agency WAFA said the claim was made

in a communique issued by the general command of Palestinian forces and dated in occupied Palestine.

It said the action was carried out by a special unit named after "the Palestinian martyr Munir Abu Ghazala" and claimed the target was a military bus, with "many enemy soldiers" being wounded.

The communiqué said the bomb was placed in the bus when it was stopped in at a "military station" in Haifa.

Responsibility for bombing the bus also was claimed by the Damascus-based Palestinian group "Fatah Uprising" headed by Colonel Saeed Mousa Marara.

(Continued on page 3)

Mubarak accuses Assad of trying to sabotage OIC summit

CAIRO (Agencies) — President Hosni Mubarak accused Syrian leader Hafez Al Assad on Sunday of trying to sabotage last week's Islamic summit in Kuwait by attacking Egypt for its 1979 separation peace treaty with Israel.

"Hafez attacked Egypt mainly to force me to reply and drag the conference into a side issue and make it collapse," Mr. Mubarak said in a televised speech marking national police day.

He said his brief meeting with Mr. Assad in Kuwait before entering the conference of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) summit hall was "a mere coincidence," witnessed by Sheikh Zayed Ibn Sultan Al Nahayan, the United Arab Emirates president.

"I shook hands with Hafez and was surprised by saying 'I will fight you inside,'" Mr. Mubarak reported, departing from his prepared text.

"I answered saying 'You fight by night only but I can fight day and night in all circumstances,'" Mr. Mubarak said as he suggested meeting Mr. Assad in Damascus, Cairo or any other Arab capital.

(Continued on page 3)

to settle their differences.

"But Assad asked me first to cancel the peace treaty and Camp David accords as a condition for a meeting. I explained clearly this cannot happen as it involves the destiny of the Egyptian people."

Syria has been one of Egypt's strongest critics of its treaty with Israel, and has along with the 22-member Arab League broken off diplomatic relations with it as a result. Only Jordan and Djibouti have since restored ties with Egypt.

In a disbelieving tone, Mr. Mubarak told an awaiting audience Mr. Assad let it be known to him that "We and the Arabs will stand behind you" should Egypt sever ties with Israel, and should the latter re-occupy Sinai.

Israel occupied the Sinai Peninsula after the 1967 war until a hand-over to Egypt starting 1980.

Speaking to an audience of ministers, police officers and other officials at the police academy on Sunday, Mr. Mubarak also condemned Libya and Syria for "always disrupting" conferences that included Arab countries.

Mr. Mubarak said he has always been careful to avoid using harsh words against Mr. Assad. "I don't say anything against him or against his policy."

Mr. Mubarak revealed that an Egyptian envoy shuttled between Damascus and Cairo last year, carrying written messages between the two heads of state. He indicated the effort had failed because "the last thing he (Mr. Assad) said was we should cancel all our accords and obligations."

Mr. Mubarak said he tried to negotiate with Mr. Assad, through an envoy, a change in Syria's agenda for the Islamic summit which was to include a condemnation of Egypt. "But, we went with enough ammunition to the conference," he said and referred to secret meetings between Syrian and Israeli officials.

A leading editor of a Cairo magazine said last week that Rifat Assad, brother of the president, met secretly some time after Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon with the then Israeli defence minister, Ariel Sharon.

(Continued on page 3)

Shultz hints at military action against kidnappers

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz described Beirut as "a plague-infested place from the middle ages" and said the United States should be prepared to use military force against hostage-takers.

"I think that we have to be prepared to use military force when we have a clear target and know precisely what we're doing," Mr. Shultz said in a published interview.

He told U.S. News and World Report magazine that the circumstances surrounding secret U.S. arms sales to Iran may have reinforced the idea that kidnapping Americans is an effective way to strike out at the United States.

"It seems as though the structure of the arms deliveries and the connection with the hostages may have gotten pretty tightly connected, in which case the perception of the Iranians — whatever the perception in this country was — would be that

Immediate Soviet pullout is possible, Najib says

NEW DELHI (R) — The Soviet Union will withdraw all its troops from Afghanistan the moment rebels stop receiving foreign arms, Afghan leader Najib said in an interview published on Sunday.

"The American threats have so far remained pure talk and we hope the threat of a military operation is serious this time so that the American nose can once more be rubbed in the mud of Lebanon," the statement said.

In Palma de Mallorca, Spain, coast guard officials said the cruiser Harry E. Yarnell of the U.S. Sixth Fleet had left for an undisclosed destination in the Mediterranean.

The coast guard in the southern Spanish port of Malaga also quoted Mr. Najib as saying that King Zahir Shah, who fled to exile in Rome after being deposed in 1973, was welcome to return to Afghanistan and could play a role in the administration.

"Anyone who works for an independent, neutral, democratic and a non-aligned Afghanistan was welcome... his status in the new set-up in Afghanistan would be determined by the role he

plays in the process," Mr. Najib said.

Mr. Najib said a Soviet troop withdrawal would not guarantee that foreign arms aid would not be resumed after the pullout.

The newspaper quoted him as saying Soviet troops would leave Afghanistan immediately if foreign arms aid to the rebels was stopped.

After a pause, it said, he qualified the remark by saying there would have to be credible guarantees that the assistance would not be resumed.

Mr. Najib did not give details of the foreign arms aid or the kind of guarantees he was seeking.

Israel approved \$50m Iran weapons sale, report says

NEW YORK (R) — An Israeli who arranged a \$50-million sale of Israeli-made arms to Iran said the deal was made two months before the first U.S. request for help from Israel in approaching Tehran, the New York Times said Sunday.

Citing a Tel Aviv interview with Israeli businessman Yaacov Nimrodi, the newspaper said the Israelis pursued their own arms sale to Iran because they saw an opportunity to re-establish contacts with high-level Iranian officials.

Nimrodi also said the Israeli deal was spurred on when their Iranian contact promised to give Israel a Soviet-made T-72 tank captured from Iraq in the Gulf war, according to the newspaper. The report called the T-72 "the most advanced tank in the Soviet arsenal."

However, Nimrodi was quoted as saying that the deal fell through at the last moment when the Iranians decided they needed U.S.-made TOW anti-tank missiles more than the mortar shells they had arranged to buy from Israel.

Nimrodi was quoted as saying the \$50-million sale of non-U.S. weapons was approved by Israel's Defence Ministry in February 1985 and involved arms dealer Adnan Khashoggi and middleman Mansour Gorbanfar.

In May 1985, the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) first proposed making overtures to Iranian leaders interested in contacts with the West.

The newspaper report adds detail to a U.S. Senate Intelligence Committee report on a probe of the Iran arms crisis, in which U.S.

arms were sold to Tehran and some of the proceeds were funnelled to Nicaraguan contra rebels.

The Senate report, released Tuesday, said Israel originally proposed the arms sales to Iran and then influenced U.S. officials several times not to stop them.

The report rejected President Reagan's claim that the U.S. arms were sold to Iran primarily to improve relations and not to buy freedom for American hostages in Lebanon.

Intelligence documents showed Israel shipped non-U.S. arms to Iran and used Israeli middlemen to sell U.S. arms to Iran as early as 1982, the Senate committee report said.

Israel has said it became involved in the Iran arms affair at the request of the United States and in order to help free American hostages.

The newspaper quoted a senior Israeli official as commenting on the difference between Nimrodi's statement and the government's position. "Our explanations up to now have always been in reference to Israeli-American cooperation in the transfer of American-made weapons to Iran. We do not comment on the sale, or potential sale, of Israeli-made weapons."

The newspaper described some of Nimrodi's remarks as "self-serving" and said others "seemed

to contradict previous official explanations and raised questions about Israel's candor in explaining its involvement in the affair."

The New York Times, in an editorial, said Sunday lies and self-deception characterised White House behaviour in the arms-for-Iran, cash-for-contras affair and its reaction to a Senate report continues the illusory pattern.

"Judging from the rosy White House reaction, the self-deception continues," the Times said in an editorial.

Contrary to President Reagan's assertions, the Senate intelligence committee report issued on Thursday neither confirms the statesmanlike motives for the Iran arms dealings nor proves his ignorance of the diversion of the profits, the Times said.

Even if the affair started innocently as a gesture towards Iran, the paper said, "it quickly degenerated, first into an arms-for-hostages deal and then into a way to sneak money to the contras. Lying was an indispensable means to those ends."

Deceptions within the administration apparently hindered an accurate reading of Israeli motives, misrepresented a National Security Council initiative to Israel and hid efforts to get foreign countries to give money to the contras, the Times said.

"The key participants gave each other wrong answers at key moments, creating a false sense of security," the Times said.

The paper called the committee report "a prelude to deeper probing" and said, "apparently Congress must sit through layers of lies to find out what happened."

A White House spokesman had no comment Sunday on the Washington Post report.

Israel again denies diverting funds to contras

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel Sunday denied a report in a new U.S. Senate report that it proposed diverting profits from the Iran arms deal to anti-government Nicaraguan contra rebels.

The Senate report said Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin told the Reagan administration in Washington last September that Israel was prepared to ship captured Soviet Bloc arms directly to the contras.

Rabin's spokesman on Friday denied the allegation. He said Rabin had rejected a request from a member of the U.S. National Security Council to supply arms to the contras.

The Senate report said Israel shipped arms to Iran as early as 1982, well before Washington asked it to do so, despite Israeli assertions it supplied arms only at U.S. request.

Israeli politicians and newspaper Sunday urged their leaders to be candid when U.S. leaders officially ask for information, but they warned that some Americans in the affair could be exaggerating Israel's role to save face.

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Israeli politicians and

NEWS IN BRIEF

Lawzi meets new Pakistani envoy

AMMAN (Petra) — Upper House of Parliament Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi on Sunday received at his office the newly-appointed Pakistani ambassador to Jordan Lieutenant General Sajid Hussain Syed on the occasion of the assumption of his new post in Jordan. Talks during the meeting focused on existing relations between Jordan and Pakistan, especially cooperation in parliamentary fields.

Himoud receives engineers' president

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Agriculture Marwan Himoud on Sunday received Mr. Tareq Al Tai, president of the Jordanian Agricultural Engineers Association. They reviewed the condition of agricultural engineers in general, with special attention to those unemployed and newly-graduated engineers. They also discussed the prospect of employing these engineers to have training at public and private sector businesses. The minister promised to organise an open meeting with the agricultural engineers and officials on Jan. 18 to discuss the problem.

Ministry invited to medical symposium

AMMAN (Petra) — The Health Ministry has received an invitation to attend an international symposium on medical sciences to be held in Holland during the coming month. During the four-day symposium, subjects related to the development of health strategies and promoting health services will be discussed. The ministry's under secretary, Dr. Suleiman Sabehi, will represent the ministry at the symposium.

University, vets discuss cooperation

AMMAN (Petra) — University of Science and Technology President Kamel Al Ajlouni on Sunday received president of the Jordanian Vets Association Abdul Fattah Al Keilani and a number of the association's board members. The meeting discussed cooperation between the university and the association after a Royal Decree approved the establishment of a faculty of agriculture and veterinary medicine at the university. Dr. Keilani stressed the need for a veterinary medicine faculty in Jordan, especially in the post-graduate studies field to turn out veterinary specialists who could help find solutions to the problems and diseases affecting animals in Jordan.

Hamzeh, governor of Irbid review plans for health centres

IRBID (Petra) — Minister of Health Zaid Hamzeh visited Irbid on Sunday and met with Irbid Governor Mohammad Ali Al Amin to discuss the general health situation in the government and projects included in the five-year development plan to improve health services in the region. Discussion also covered the prospect of establishing an integrated health centre in Irbid on a plot of land offered by Irbid Municipality.

Dr. Hamzeh said that his ministry's plans to open 10 health centres during this month in Irbid

Mubarak criticises Assad

(Continued from page 1)

"They (the Syrians) started the attacks during the foreign ministers' meetings, and insulted us with words that I can't repeat, shocking everyone."

Islamic conference sources said a senior Syrian branded Egypt a "mud whore" during a preliminary meeting of delegates.

"We Arabs have two mischief-makers among us out to spoil conferences, Islamic summits and Non-Aligned Movement summits," Mr. Mubarak said, citing Libyan and Syrian lengthy attacks on Egypt during such conferences.

Commenting on his brief talk with Mr. Assad in Kuwait, Mr. Mubarak said they were close to agreeing on a plan for an exchange of views via low-level talks, to be followed by wider Arab consultations.

"I told him 'I want you to stop insulting us,' and he said 'but I never insulted you.'

"I found this strange, am I not the leader of Egypt that they insult? Or am I hired from Libya to rule Egypt?" Mr. Mubarak said, drawing peals of laughter from the audience.

Continuing his account of the encounter with Mr. Assad, Mr. Mubarak said he suggested sending

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QUEEN OPENS PARKS — Greater Amman Municipality held an Arbor Day celebration on Sunday at Jabal Qusour district, at the Royal Racing Club and in Umm Uthaima under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor. The Queen on this occasion opened three public parks at the sites and took part in planting olive trees. She also visited Amman national park and inspected work

going on there. Greater Amman Mayor Abdul Ra'ouf Al Rawabdeh and Mrs. In'am Al Mafiti, director general of the Noor Al Hassna Foundation, and other officials took part in the tree planting activities. The three parks opened on Sunday contain play areas for children with grounds for volley and basketball and viewing stands for spectators (Petra photo)

Lower House to debate wide ranging laws during eighth ordinary session

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Lower House of Parliament will hold a session on Tuesday to discuss a number of laws and refer other legislation to its five specialised committees for further review.

The House's session on Tuesday is its eighth ordinary meeting since Parliament was inaugurated last November and it is expected to refer a draft law covering an amendment to the investment law, the 1986 law to set up the Jordan Agricultural Marketing Association and another amendment to the law on foreign residency in Jordan.

The first draft law, according to economists, comes in line with the government's efforts to encourage local and foreign investments in Jordan's agricultural, industrial, health, education and transport sectors as well as in the financial market. The government has already initiated numerous legislations to achieve its goal of supporting investments in its newly launched JD 3.35 billion

development plan for 1986-1990, in which the private sector's total investments are projected to be 49 per cent.

The second draft law to be referred to the House's legal committee will pave the way for setting up a national agricultural marketing institution, the goals of which will be to draw up agricultural marketing policies to be adopted by the Agriculture Ministry and eventually implemented through the association. The association, a senior official said, will lend a helping hand to the ministry since it will be acting as a follow up liaison on all legalised legislations. Agriculture Minister Marwan Himoud earlier told the Jordan Times the association would also be commissioned to conduct feasibility studies on local agricultural produce and means of marketing them both locally and regionally.

Asked if the role of the proposed organisation might possibly clash with other existing specialised institutions, such as the Agricultural, Marketing and Processing Company of Jordan (AMPCO), Mr. Himoud said that each of the two associations had a different role to perform. He explained that AMPCO was the executive branch to market local and Jordanian products abroad, while the proposed institution would be restricted to the research aspects of all agricultural related matters.

The House will also refer two funding agreements reached between the government of Jordan and the Arab Fund for Socio-Economic Development to finance part of the almost JD 17 million Zara-Ghor Hadithah highway and another loan agreement to finance a project to develop the Zarqa River Basin.

In another two suggestions, Deputy Obaidi urged the Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) to improve its telecommunications services in the southern Kourab district governorate, and he appealed to the government to asphalt the road between Jenin and Safa and Arkha in the north. Deputy Mufeed said that emergency cases should be admitted for treatment in government hospitals and medical clinics.

Committee receives 125 papers for fifth medical conference

AMMAN (Petra) — A large number of Jordanian and foreign physicians and specialists are expected to take part in the fifth Jordanian medical conference, scheduled to open here early next month, and a committee in charge of preparing for the gathering has received a total of 125 working papers and scientific research works to be submitted to the conference, according to Dr. Zuhair Abu Faris, the committee's information chairman.

He said that the working papers deal mainly with the ophthalmology, general surgery, plastic surgery and diseases affecting women and children.

During the conference, the Jordanian Medical Association (JMA) will organise seminars on the treatment of cancer, child mortality, the employment of laser beams for medical purposes, industrial medicine and medical sciences in the future, Dr. Abu Faris noted.

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BUT HURRY SUPPLIES ARE LIMITED.

Public concern over road accidents warrants more action, PSD officer says

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordanian society is preoccupied and greatly concerned about the numerous accidents on the roads and this problem is one of the most pressing in the Kingdom and is on the minds of the people all the time, Director of Traffic at the Public Security Department (PSD) Colonel Mahmoud Al Mashni said at a meeting held in Amman on Sunday.

He said that 13,700 road accidents occurred in Jordan last year, resulting in the death of 363 people and the injury of 7,539 others and although these figures were down from 16,780 accidents in 1985, which killed a total of 524 and injured 9,100, there was still an urgent need to greatly reduce the death and injury toll.

Col. Mashni, who was addressing a committee preparing for World Traffic Day and Arab Traffic Day activities to be held in the Kingdom, said that public

awareness and people's interaction with the laws and regulations could greatly help the authorities to curb the number of accidents and reduce the resultant human and material losses. Col. Mashni's statements coincided with the reinforcement of regulations requiring drivers and occupants of front seats in public and private cars to wear seat belts for greater safety on the roads. Violators of the new regulations will be liable to fines of between JD 5 and JD 15.

Muasher in Damascus for trade and industry talks

DAMASCUS (Petra) — Minister of Industry and Trade Rajai Muasher arrived in Damascus on Sunday for a three-day visit and talks with Dr. Mohammad Imadi, Syrian minister of economic and foreign trade.

The head of UNESCO's statistics department, Dr. Farid Bustani, will also meet Syrian Minister of Industry Ali Tarabishi to discuss means of promoting industrial cooperation between Jordan and Syria and subjects pertaining to joint industrial ventures.

Dr. Muasher and Dr. Imadi will also attend the general assembly meetings of the Jordanian-Syrian Industrial Free Zone Corporation.

The corporation's general director Hashem Al Dabbas said in a statement that the general assembly will discuss a general budget for 1987, allocations for investments and a general working plan for this year.

The meeting will also discuss the subject of implementing a Jordanian-Syrian agreement on allowing 25 per cent of Syrian and Jordanian industrial products to enter both countries' markets through the joint free zones, according to Dr. Dabbas.

The general assembly, which meets twice a year, is co-chaired by the ministers of industry and trade in both countries.

The meeting will discuss requests submitted by a number of investors to set up industrial businesses in the joint free zones and these include agricultural processing industries, according to Dr. Dabbas.

UNESCO, Department of Statistics open course on scientific data

AMMAN (Petra) — The United Nations Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) on Sunday urged the Arab World to establish specialised units and departments to deal with science and technology.

The head of UNESCO's statistics department, Dr. Farid Bustani, said that such units would benefit from carefully-prepared statistics and would in turn contribute towards carrying out sound economic and social development plans.

Dr. Bustani, who was addressing the opening session of the first training course in Jordan on technology and science statistics, said that UNESCO's statistics office continues to organise training courses and helps statistics departments in various countries of the region, adding that it will continue to do so.

The opening session was also addressed by Dr. Abdul Hadi Al Alawi, director of the Department of Statistics. He said that Jordan and other Arab states are showing an increasing interest in the transfer of technology and science and promoting scientific research. But, he said, the fast development and application of technology in advanced nations has widened the technological and economic gap separating the Third World, noting that this gap continues to exacerbate economic problems.

Dr. Alawi called on Arab countries to draw up appropriate strategies for the transfer of technology and its employment.

Jordan since the 1950s has devoted its efforts towards developing its scientific and technological potentials, and this policy led to a rapid development in the national economy over the past few years, Dr. Alawi continued. He said that Jordan, through its highly skilled manpower, has been able to offer assistance to other Arab states in developing their national economies.

The session was also addressed by Mr. Abdul Rahman Al Jabbouri, director general of the Arab Institute for statistical training and research, who said that the first training course, the first of its kind in the Arab World, was designed to develop skills and efficiency of those involved in statistics, especially in the field of science.

Mr. Jabbouri praised UNESCO's role in helping to develop statistics departments and their services in the Arab World.

During the week-long course, participants from 10 Arab countries will be oriented on subjects pertaining to methods of gathering and classifying data on science and technology, and conducting surveys on the activities of organisations and centres which are concerned with science and technology.

Taking part in the course are delegates from Jordan, Bahrain, Qatar, Tunisia, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Sudan, Syria, the United Arab Emirates and Palestine in addition to the Council of Arab Economic Unity, several Jordanian ministries, the Royal Scientific Society and Jordanian universities.

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Vote for democracy

THE persisting attempts on the life of embryonic democracy in the Philippines is a reminder that well-entrenched, undemocratic governments die hard. The remnants of the old regime in Manila clearly have not relinquished their hopes of reestablishing themselves at the helm of power. Their continuous attacks on the young democracy through attempted coups demonstrate beyond doubt that after a generation of an undemocratic system of government the Philippines has been deprived of the necessary democratic traditions which make the new ship of state of President Corazon Aquino sail in very rough seas. There is no doubt that for democracy to survive, it needs not only grass-roots support but also solid foundations and proper groundwork. No one expected the forces associated with the previous regime of Ferdinand Marcos to surrender their old vested interests without a fight. But we think that the giant tide of freedom and liberty which has hit the shores of that country will survive all such designs and attempts on the new and fresh course which the Philippines has taken.

Nevertheless, the case of the Philippines is a good lesson in democracy. It demonstrates that the ideal situation for the development of democracy is to allow for an evolutionary transformation in the direction of responsible and free parliamentary system of government and, in that process, to lay the right foundations and create the necessary infrastructure for democratic rule. Short of these preparatory procedures, the people of the Philippines have been forced to plunge into a new system of government while remaining besieged by enemies and hostile forces. Against this backdrop, President Aquino has demonstrated wisdom, tolerance and determination on more than one occasion and front. Now she is forced to do the inevitable and start the process of purging the anti-democratic elements from the government and armed forces. She summed up the sentiment of the new system in the Philippines when she bluntly announced that, after months of patience and tolerance, she did not want to kill anyone, but nor does she accept or want to be killed and her infant democracy destroyed.

In the final analysis, the people of the Philippines will have their say on the government of President Aquino when they have the opportunity to vote on the new constitution in a nation-wide plebiscite due to be held today. If Filipinos accept the new constitution, they would in effect give the new government a new and legitimate lease on life for six more years, and President Aquino, who made all these changes possible, would stay in power for that duration. If Aquino wins this struggle, it would mean that democracy has won the battle in the Philippines in spite of all the hardships and challenges that she has been faced with up until now.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Prospects for an Arab summit

MANY of those who did not want the Islamic summit have been disappointed when the meeting took place. The great number of leaders attending proved that the summit was a success. Perhaps the most important aspect about the summit was that it has now paved the way for an Arab meeting at the highest level, and despite the absence of Libya from the Islamic summit in Kuwait everything can be done to prepare for an Arab meeting for the sake of planning joint action. The Arab foreign ministers have already met in Kuwait to pave the way for the Arab summit meeting and most importantly their talks and the subjects discussed at the Islamic parley in Kuwait focused mostly on issues of concern to the Arab Nation. The Arab ministers and the Islamic leaders both studied in depth the Iran-Iraq war and means of ending the conflict between the two Muslim neighbours, the situation in Lebanon and ways for stopping the civil strife and ending Amal's siege of refugee camps and the situation in the occupied Arab lands under Israeli rule and ways for extending help to the Palestinian people to regain their rights. These talks and the contents of the conference's final communique both indicate a preliminary step that could pave the way for holding an Arab summit meeting. We are confident that the Arab League in cooperation with Saudi Arabia, which will host the Arab summit, will carry out the next step for convening the Arab summit.

Al Dustour: Europe must assume role

IN his address before the Council of Europe on Thursday, Prince Hassan reiterated that continued Israeli occupation of Arab land is bound to threaten Arab identity not only in Palestine but also in lands that neighbour the occupied territory. For this reason, and acting in a bid to safeguard Arab rights and interests, Jordan has embarked on implementing a five-year development plan for the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. This plan, Prince Hassan said, is a temporary measure and can by no means serve as a substitute for freedom and a lasting peace. It is, he said, a means of meeting the immediate needs of the Arab people under Israeli rule and to prevent forced emigration from Arab territory. Needless to say that Europe has a major role to play in this respect, and European countries can find a proper formula for peace. At the same time, Prince Hassan pointed out that Jordan has a unique role in the peace making process in view of its geographical location, its close ties with Europe and its unshakable links with the people of the occupied Arab territory. Jordan as Prince Hassan noted, shoulders a heavy burden in this regard and continues to extend all possible assistance to the Arab inhabitants under Israeli occupation.

Sawt Al Shaab: Hope for better relations

SIDE Arab meetings which were held during the Islamic summit conference in Kuwait are bound to bear good fruit because they were based on the need to achieve solidarity among Arab countries and aimed at reaching a joint strategy with regard to the common threats and challenges. King Hussein has no doubt played a key role in fusing this harmony and launching a dialogue among the various Arab leaders. He spared no effort during the Kuwait conference in working towards the achievement of consensus on the need of tackling pressing issues. The Kuwait conference was not only a chance for a meeting by Muslim leaders but rather an opportunity for the Arab heads of state to hold fruitful consultations on issues of concern to their nation. These leaders lost no moment in discussing the Gulf conflict that has been raging for more than six years, the Palestine problem and Israel's continued occupation of Arab territory, and the situation in Lebanon which is a source of concern to all Arabs and Muslims alike. King Hussein seized the opportunity of the Islamic conference to do what he can for serving Arab causes, and he has no doubt succeeded in bringing Arab leaders to face-to-face meetings, thus breaking the ice paving the way for further successful and fruitful efforts.

Economic recession: Many prescriptions but no proper diagnosis

By Dr. Waleed Sa'di

LAST Tuesday evening, I had the good fortune of attending the address by Dr. Khalil Al Salem which he delivered to the World Affairs Council on the economic crisis in Jordan. Dr. Salem is too well known to introduce to the reader. As we say in Arabic, he is "more famous than fire on a pole." His credentials are massive and his intellect is truly outstanding. And what made his *dardashat* (chat) as he called his lecture even more enjoyable is his style of oration which was penetrating and clever.

The theme of Dr. Salem's address was the recession in Jordan and what to do about it. He prefaced his remarks by saying, and correctly so, that it is no longer tenable to blame our domestic economic ailments on international recession because there is no more international recession. In other words, he cautioned, we in Jordan must seek redress in our economic crisis by observing more self-reliance albeit there are outside factors like the Iran-Iraq war and the situations in the occupied territories and Lebanon which continue to affect negatively our overall economic development.

But as I listened to our learned economic expert making his comments to the limited audience, I got the distinct impression that he was offering more prescriptions to redress an over-heated economy and less remedies to a confirmed recession. His accentuation of the need to tighten our belts across the board, conserve our energy, spend less here and there, travel less, import less and even eat less, especially imported food stuffs are prescriptions against heated economy which we don't have. The catch word in his remarks was the word "less," less of everything except agriculture and a fund to help the poor and needy.

At the beginning of his comments, Dr. Salem characterised the energy issue as among the major problems confronting the Jordanian economy and, as I understood him to suggest, has contributed fundamentally to the recession which is inflicting the national Jordanian economy. He reminded his audience that Jordan's energy bill was too high and was eating up our foreign reserves. But in correctly highlighting this problem and drain an Jordan's hard currencies, he failed to offer parallel answers or suggest pragmatic panacea. Surely it is not enough to point the finger to the energy problem if such diagnosis is not coupled by suggestions as to how we may redress it. Although a layman for all intents and purposes, nevertheless I have sufficient academic background in macro-economics to make me wonder about the true nature and dimension of this so-called energy crisis. I could not help asking myself the question: What would Dr. Salem have us do in this context? Is he suggesting that we are driving too much and over-heating our homes? Surely one cannot claim that Jordanians are extravagant with their driving habits. Where do Jordanians who are fortunate enough to own cars go anyway? On our one-day weekends we spend our time visiting one another either to express our condolences or extend our heartfelt congratulations. Some of us manage to visit the Jordan Valley in the winter and the northern

part of the country in the summer. Even fewer of us respond to the campaign for the augmentation of our internal tourism and drive all the way to Aqaba to help fill our empty hotels. Without driving around, surely our life style would become dreary and the local economy which is dependent on such driving would suffer. As for our heating bill, most of our citizens heat up their homes with the most economical means of heating: Aladdin kerosene heater. For the few of us who have central heating system, I suspect that the thermometer is kept at the lowest bearable degree. In retrospect and viewed against this backdrop, one cannot justly claim that our fuel bill is too high. If one is concerned about our hard currency I respectfully submit that foreign reserves are not intended to be put on a pedestal for worship. They are intended to provide us with the bare necessities of life and heating is by no means a luxury. We may be able nevertheless to rationalise the use of energy by providing our people with viable alternatives such as solar and wind energies. It would be utter nonsense to accomplish the objective of rationalisation by limiting imports of fuel or by augmenting the price tag for our people. If we pursue such policies only our poor would suffer as our rich can always pay the necessary price with minimum hardship. And since we have unemployment and therefore some poverty, we would be adding injury to injury if we hike the price of energy or limit its availability. It would be prudent to remind ourselves as well that the price of energy in Jordan is already high and higher than international prices. When the price of oil went down, Jordan was one of the very few countries which did not reciprocate this international decline by lowering the domestic prices.

More viable was Dr. Salem's comments about our bill for jewelry which he told us reached the phenomenal price of some 60 million dinars in 1985. Granted that this dispensation of foreign currency is unwise and unwarranted, but I would like him to find a formula for us to convince our ladies that jewelry is not a necessity for a nation in a state of war. Again wanting in Dr. Salem's reference to this problem are the proposed remedies. Our women are very resourceful in obtaining their jewelry and are notorious for their improvisation in beating the system which seeks to keep them away from their loved and cherished goods. If we just close our national doors in the face of jewelry, next thing you know black market flourishes in our midst. If black market can be fought off, then our ladies would find a way or an excuse to accompany their husbands on their overseas trips to satisfy their lust for jewelry. If we clamp down on the travel of our citizens to the outside and make the lid tighter on foreign sojourns, we would in effect change the character of this country from an open and free society to a closed country indistinguishable from other countries which we dread to live in. In the final analysis, such police tactics are self-defeating and the final price becomes even more compounded by them.

Even less viable was Dr. Salem's comments about auto and

computer imports. His remarks, I must admit caused consternation in my mind and soul. Dr. Salem must be aware that in Jordan we still do not have an adequate or even anything approaching adequate public transportation system. He knows only too well that most of us have no choice between driving our cars or taking a public transportation means to go to work or to offer our sympathies or congratulations. Accordingly viewed in that light, one cannot just say that cars are luxury items. Already the customs on cars are very high and the state treasury is accumulating much earning from customs on our cars. True we (are) still losing our hard currency; but again our foreign reserves are there to alleviate a structural problem in our economy which is the lack of a functional public transportation system.

Much more difficult to accept is Dr. Salem's critique against our open and liberal policy on the importation of computers. Surely he understands that computers are modern means for sophisticated learning in this technological age. We in the Arab World are considered among the most backward peoples of the world and if we follow the foot steps prescribed to us by Dr. Salem and deprive our children and adults this modern machinery, certainly the gap between us and other civilisations and cultures would broaden. It must dawn on us by now, as it had on other countries, that the computer is not a luxury item but rather a vital educational element which has acquired the status of being a *sine qua non* for the elevation of educational systems world-wide with a view to bridge the gap or at least narrow the gap between the developed and the developing countries. If we forsake new high technology no matter what the price tag is, we would be in effect sentencing ourselves to permanent backwardness. Surely the price tag on backwardness is high and much higher than the saving that we seem to be obsessed with realising.

Let the reader interpret my remarks as 100 per cent critique of everything Dr. Salem had said in his lecture to us on January 27, I would like to emphasise that nothing could be more wrong. There were indeed many salient points which Dr. Salem has made that evening with which no man in his right mind would quarrel with. I merely picked two or three items with which I found myself in disagreement with the distinguished lecturer. His lecture in fact can be viewed as a spring board for further discussions and deliberations. There were some points which needed further elaborations, such as the exchange rate of the dinar, our taxation policy, the policy of transforming state establishments into private ones and the policy of mergers between companies. But with all fairness to Dr. Salem, he spoke his mind with integrity and courage. For this we are most grateful. We are likewise even more grateful to him for starting a debate among men of good will on a subject which is affecting all of us, rich and poor. All of us who had heard Dr. Salem speak up would very much like him to chair a seminar on the same subject to further deliberate the important issues he was wise enough to raise.

Filipinos vote on new constitution amid turmoil

By Arthur Spiegelman
Reuter

MANILA — As their country struggles on amid continuing turmoil, millions of Filipinos vote on Feb. 2 on a new constitution whose preamble promises them unity, peace, stability and even

as president in one of the world's most fractious countries.

In her 11 months in office, Aquino has remained popular with millions of Filipinos although she has often been learning on the job rather than ruling. She is banking on that popularity to spell victory for the constitution.

In the last 10 days, troops shot 15 demonstrators dead before the presidential palace, 400 rebel soldiers tried to seize four military camps, 190 soldiers captured a television station, 100 junior officers confronted the armed forces chief, ousted President Ferdinand Marcos rented a plane to fly home from exile and President Corazon Aquino vowed to

vote effectively become a one-candidate presidential election — as much a referendum on her rule than a vote for a constitution. Most analysts say Aquino will have to resign if the charter is defeated.

The army, whose revolt last February toppled Marcos after three years of turmoil, is split into several factions. Last week's rebellion, according to diplomats, severely eroded the authority of armed forces chief Fidel Ramos. Many in the army oppose the constitution.

Until the revolt, which the government says was staged by pro-

Marcos elements, few Filipinos questioned Ramos' ability to maintain control. He said his mission was to keep the army out of politics. Now many wonder whether he can.

As 25 million Filipinos over the age of 18 prepare to vote on the wordy new constitution that restores popularly elected government and civil rights, Manila has become a 24-hour-a-day *rumor mill*.

The rumours have differed, components — but the theme is always the same: A coup will be staged to stop Monday's vote and therefore deny Aquino the six year term in office the charter grants her.

Driving out to the city's main military camps to count the number of generals being chauffeured in for dead-of-night crisis sessions has become routine for hundreds of foreign reporters who descended on the country in the past week.

Many political analysts see the events of the past 10 days as destabilising enough to produce a national nervous breakdown, coming as it does on the heels of months of crisis.

One opposition leader, Blas Opie, a framer of the new constitution, says there is enough momentum to propel the country into civil war.

As 1,600 troops surrounded a rebel-captured television station, 100 junior officers stormed into the office of General Ramos and demanded he end the revolt without violence because a Philippine soldier must never be asked to shoot a comrade.

According to one version of the confrontation being circulated among diplomats, Ramos was told bluntly by the officers, "If you use force, we join the rebels."

Diplomats say the damage last Tuesday's aborted revolt did to the army is particularly

dangerous.

The turmoil has also set the stage for a resumption of a war between Communist rebels in the countryside and the government.

The rebels have declared that their historic peace talks with the government are over although they will wait for a 60-day ceasefire with the government to expire on February 8 before resuming hostilities. Reaching peace with the Marxist rebels and an end to the 18-year-long war was a major Aquino goal.

Aquino has ordered a purge of the army's "misguided element" saying, "I don't want to kill, but neither do I want to be killed."

Aquino believes that her 109-page constitution will bring peace to her troubled land because it legitimises her government, creates an elected national legislature, restores civil rights and allows for the election of local officials to replace largely ineffective

appointees.

In short, she says it fulfills her chief goal and that of her assassinated husband, opposition leader Benigno Aquino, to restore Philippine democracy — even as it takes away the near-dictatorial powers she now enjoys but seldom uses.

A late public opinion poll conducted for the government predicts the constitution will win 71 per cent of the vote. The poll also shows that the military rebellion frightened many voters and convinced them to vote "yes" for the new charter.

Election officials expect a turnout of between 70 and 80 per cent of registered voters and a trend is expected within two or three days from the nation's 57,000 polling precincts.

Manila's rumour watchers expect that until the final tally, the nation's worst case of jitters since the February revolt is certain to continue.

Opposition apparent to Gorbachev's political, economic policies

By Andrew Rosenthal
The Associated Press

MOSCOW — The resistance to Mikhail S. Gorbachev's reform programmes is becoming increasingly apparent, and his struggle with it more public, as the Kremlin leader moves against the entrenched Svetlana bureaucracy.

Gorbachev scored some victories at last week's Communist Party Central Committee meeting on personnel policy, but the committee failed to endorse some of his key proposals.

Clearly frustrated with the slow pace of change, Gorbachev closed the meeting with a challenge to the political machine he inherited from the late Leonid I. Brezhnev.

Gorbachev declared that "the party and all healthy people stand for change." And he warned: "There can be just no other path at all and this (the plenum) should mark an end to the debates on whether we need change or not."

Gorbachev's performance at the plenum reflected both his personal confidence and the strength of his political position. But he still faces a tough struggle that in coming months is expected to revolve around Gorbachev's call for revisions in the party's internal election system and for a special party meeting in the summer of 1988.

It comes as no surprise that Gorbachev is fighting the officials who rose to power under his predecessor. That is the usual case.

For Gorbachev, the necessity of creating a base to ensure his political future has been complicated by his desire to put into effect a programme of economic and social reform that is radical by Soviet standards and which threatens the Kremlin's "old guard."

The remarkable aspect, under Gorbachev, is the way in which a truly clandestine fight has been fought out into the open,

apparently in an effort to use publicity as a weapon against Gorbachev's opponents.

Gorbachev spoke openly and sometimes defiantly about bureaucratic resistance in two speeches to the party meeting. Other Soviet officials talk readily about the difficulties he faces.

"There is certainly resistance," said Yevgeny Pogozayev, a senior editor at the Novosti News Agency.

Gorbachev's dilemma was summed up last week by senior Soviet commentator Alexander Bovin, who wrote an article denouncing the "Soviet socialist conservatives" opposing Gorbachev and compared his reforms

to the de-stalinisation period.

Gorbachev has made progress in his economic programmes and in loosening controls that have long stifled Soviet culture. But profound change in the economy and society is impossible without shaking up the political system. That is where Gorbachev has come up against the heaviest resistance.

He apparently had trouble simply convening last week's party meeting, which was first set for December. The meeting lasted hours longer than expected, due to prolonged debate.

In 22 months, Gorbache

Iron picture: An indestructible art

By Lin Bing

Iron picture making, an ancient art form in China, is developing as a profitable line of business.

CHINA'S late Chairman Mao Zedong and Premier Zhou Enlai often posed for photos with foreign visitors in front of a magnificent work of art in the Anhui Room of the Great Hall of the People, China's parliament building.

The 3-metre-high picture, featuring huge pine with outstretched branches, has appeared countless times in news photos and is known to almost every Chinese. It is meant to serve as a symbol of welcome to visitors.

It looks like a traditional Chinese painting. But it is not. This masterpiece is made of iron, a unique artistic form first developed some 300 years ago by a young sheet metal craftsman named Tang Tianchi.

Tang started as a blacksmith's apprentice in Wuhu, a city on the Yangtze River. He learned basic painting techniques from a famous contemporary painter in the city. But Tang the blacksmith was not satisfied to paint with brush and ink. He wanted to "paint" with his hammer and use iron as his "ink." He wanted pictures that would not fade or decay.

Hammering and forging, he quality inspector at the Wuhu

created exquisite scenes from wrought iron. For large-scale or extremely intricate pictures, he fixed finished components on framed wood boards. Tang soon became famous for his iron pictures of birds, flowers, mountains, grass, ponds and waterfalls. He even hammered out the hand-writings of some renowned calligraphers.

It was no accident that Wuhu became the birthplace of this unusual art form. Local historical records show that the city has had a long history of iron smelting. And in the 17th century, more than 100 steel foundries operated there. Many blacksmiths specialised in making iron pictures.

Iron picture making has now become a profitable line of business in the city. The Wuhu Arts and Crafts Factory turns out 65,000 iron pictures a year and exports a quarter of them. More than 100 individual craftsmen are engaged in this trade.

An ordinary iron picture costs between 15 to 35 yuan (about U.S.\$4-10), and weighs around three to five kilograms. Iron pictures are available at many shops in the city.

"Iron pictures incorporate painting with handicraft and have a strong three-dimensional effect, with white and black in sharp contrast," said Chu Jinxi, 41, a quality inspector at the Wuhu



factory.

Using low-carbon steel as the raw material, craftsmen create iron pictures by painstakingly forging, trimming, welding, annealing, paint baking and framing.

A craftsman first chooses a piece of wrought iron roughly shaped like the main content of the prospective picture. He hammers the iron for thousands of times before he gets the desired shape. Then with files, bench clamps and hammers of many sizes, he trims and perfects the

forged metal piece. If it is a large work, the craftsman will forge smaller components separately and weld them together. Like hardware goods for everyday use, iron pictures must be annealed. The last stage is to have the finished work baked with black paint and then framed.

The Iron Picture Research Association, recently established in Wuhu, is charged with developing new varieties and improving old products. Researchers have already developed a paint-baking technique that renders

iron pictures rust-proof for at least 100 years.

The difficulty of the art lies mainly in how skillfully the artist manages to leave the dents from hammering on the finished object, and it is also the place where you can distinguish a truly good work from an awkward forgery," Chu said.

Pointing to a work of ancient beauty, she said, "One must hammer at least 30,000 times to hang in the Great Hall of the

People — China features.

Unkind cut for U.S. wage slaves pursuing a dream

Some U.S. workers have had pay cuts recently. Anatole Kaletsky describes the pay phenomenon which enables President Reagan to ride the dollar's fall.

WASHINGTON — How can the Reagan administration remain so utterly insouciant about the falling dollar? Why do foreign investors continue to put their money into a currency whose value has been melting away at the rate of 1.5 per cent a month since early 1985? And why do the pundits who have warned for years about the dollar's imminent "crash landing" remain so shy of claiming victory for their ideas?

All of these mysteries have a common explanation — the dollar's fall has so far failed to trigger the generally expected wage-price spiral which should by now have sent the U.S. bond market into a tailspin, caused panic in the business community and ruined the Reagan administration's anti-inflationary reputation.

That none of this has happened is largely due to a little understood phenomenon: A funny thing has happened to American workers on their way to the late-1980s. They have forgotten about the ever-rising living standards and wages which were supposed to be the very stuff of the American dream.

The average U.S. worker's weekly earnings in 1986 were

\$303, which is 8.5 per cent lower in real terms than the \$120 recorded in 1970. In fact, American wage and salary earners have enjoyed no real improvement in living standards for nearly 20 years now — a misfortune which can be found in almost no other country outside Africa and Latin America. Most of the fall in U.S. earnings occurred from 1979 to 1982, during which period rapid inflation overtook the rate of pay increases each year. But, in the last few years, an even more surprising story has been unfolding.

While inflation has been slowing, so has the escalation of pay settlements. As a result, there are now millions of U.S. workers for whom an annual pay cut — in actual money wages, not just in "real terms" — is a fact of life.

Indeed, the number of U.S. workers who suffered pay cuts and freezes increased significantly last year, according to the best estimates available. The Bureau of Labour Statistics calculates that 8 per cent of the workers whose pay was settled in major collective agreements during the first nine months of 1986 suffered pay cuts. A further 23 per cent

had no change in their wages at all. These figures compare with 5 per cent and 18 per cent respectively during 1985.

In the manufacturing sector, however, the vice has been screwed down much tighter: 24 per cent of workers had to accept pay cuts last year against a mere 1 per cent in 1985. A further 42 per cent managed only to hold their wages constant, leaving a mere third of the manufacturing workers to enjoy any pay increase at all.

What is responsible for this relentless belt-tightening, considering that corporate profits are at their highest level for more than a decade, that unemployment is stable and that the falling dollar is relieving the competitive pressure from abroad?

The manufacturing industries exposed to foreign competition are only one of three types of industries where pay concessions have been most prevalent, according to Professor Dan Mitchell of the University of California. The other two are businesses which have been recently deregulated and those where non-union competitors have recently grown rapidly to challenge the positions of unionised companies.

The first group includes the many traditional industries like

steel, copper and timber where the majority of workers have suffered pay cuts of 20 per cent or more in the past year. Although the worst may now be over for the car and engineering industries, parts of these, too, remain exposed, as evidenced by pay cuts of 10 to 20 per cent at Carrier Air Conditioning and Timken Ball Bearings, and freezes on basic pay at Caterpillar Tractor and Bendix last year.

The second group includes all the domestic airlines, which have either cut wages outright or introduced two-tier pay scales under which new recruits earn far less than established employees. It also covers the trucking companies and Greyhound Bus Lines, which has recently been sold to a non-union operator after the unions resisted a management demand for pay cuts of at least 15 per cent.

The third group is the most varied and the one which has given free-market economists most encouragement in their belief that the weakening of unions will put the U.S. economy permanently on a path of faster non-inflationary growth. In the past year, supermarket groups like Safeway and Kroger have imposed cuts and freezes on their unionised workers, arguing that

they could not compete with the expansion of non-union stores. Workers at Disneyland, too, were told their pay rates were 50 per cent above the competition.

In many cases, non-unionised

competition has also been the force which has actually provoked the change in traditional trading industries and deregulated businesses. For example, Weyerhaeuser, the forest products company, personnel 7,000 of its workers to end a six-week strike last summer and take a 20 per cent pay cut largely by pointing out that several smaller logging companies had hired non-union replacements after the industry's longstanding system of centralised collective bargaining began to break up in 1983. Many of the pay cuts in the transport industries have been influenced by the non-union competitors, like Mr. Frank Lorédo's rapidly growing Texas Air empire.

The competition between unionised and non-unionised companies is probably the best explanation for the continuing downward pressure on pay settlements in much of the U.S. economy. It is also a reason for taking some of the more extreme claims about disinflation in the U.S. economy with a pinch of salt.

Little is known in detail about the pay deals granted to the 80 per cent of U.S. workers who are not covered by collective bargaining. But it may be dangerous to take too much anti-inflationary comfort from BLS statistics on major collective bargains, which cover only 18 per cent of the U.S. private sector's employees and are heavily weighted towards precisely those industries which are under the fiercest pressure from foreign and non-union competition.

In what may be a worrying sign of the inflationary clouds on the horizon, the aggregate figures on U.S. earnings show that non-union workers have been enjoying consistently bigger pay rises than their unionised rivals in every year since 1982. In the past two years the gap has averaged 1.7 per cent annually, with non-union employees receiving average pay rises of 3.5 per cent in the past 12 months.

Pay rises of 5 per cent or more are still the norm in many of the

profitable service industries, such as finance, as well as in the unionised utilities and state and local governments. It is anybody's guess how long the austerity in the unionised economy can continue to compensate for the inflationary pressures in the non-unionised sectors — Financial Times feature.

Israel campaigns to bring back 'wandering Israelis'

By Paul Taylor
Reuter

TEL AVIV — In growing numbers, the children and grandchildren of the Zionists of the Jewish state are thinking of leaving Israel.

Frustrated by low living standards, high taxes and mundane jobs, one in five Israelis under 26 say they are contemplating emigration, according to a recent survey by the ministry of immigration absorption.

Already an estimated 340,000 Israelis live abroad — about nine percent of Israel's Jewish population. The figures have fuelled an anguished debate in a society founded on Jewish immigration.

"When we built this state, we thought we had got rid of the wandering Jew," says Yossi Kucik, adviser on emigration to the immigration minister. "Now we have the wandering Israeli."

Kucik is in charge of a programme with a million-dollar annual budget to discourage emigration and lure emigrants

back by a mixture of propaganda and material incentives.

Last year, emigrants outnumbered new immigrants for the third time in Israel's history. About 13,000 people left the country while only 9,500 came to settle.

Roughly half of all Israeli emigrants live in the United States, drawn by the prospect of fat salaries, consumer affluence and a more easy-going lifestyle.

But experts on emigration say the American dream has not entirely supplanted the Zionist dream in the minds of Israelis.

Only a small minority of emigrants say they are motivated by fear of Arab-Israeli war, security worries or desperation with a month's annual army reserve duty, the survey claims.

When Egypt and Syria fought Israel in 1973, many Israelis regarded as emigrants crammed airports around the world to rush to the battlefield.

"I think many of us just want a breather from the intensity of

Israeli life. It wears you down — the security situation, military service, taxes, struggling to make a living," said Dov, 33, a computer scientist who recently left for London.

U.S. consular officials say it is hard to draw a profile of the typical Israeli emigrant since most do not apply for American immigrant visas before leaving Israel.

"People who want to emigrate are not going to tell you. They'll say they're just going on a business trip or something," one official said.

"In a lot of cases I think it is just a matter of economics. Educated young men in their late 20s to early 40s find they can't make ends meet," he said.

The average Israeli wage is \$700 a month and many engineers, doctors and accountants make little more than \$12,000 a year from their main job when they could be earning at least \$60,000 a year in the United States.

Civil servants and army officers

earn a pittance, and many Israelis take a second job or work in the black economy.

To make the gap even worse, Israelis have been paying up to 60 per cent of their salaries in income tax. High customs and sales taxes mean a small family car that costs around \$15,000 and a colour television \$1,200.

"How do you make a small fortune in Israel?" a popular joke asks. The answer is: "Start with a large one."

New immigrants to Israel are allowed to buy a car and household electrical goods tax-free for a limited period and qualify for a subsidised mortgage.

As one incentive to immigrate the authorities now allow long-term emigrants to bring the electrical appliances duty free.

"If they gave those benefits instead to Israeli kids when they finish the army there would be no emigration problem," said Shmuel Dubinsky, an immigrant from Canada.

Often emigrants join a relative

or friends in the United States, where they live in closely-knit communities, remote from their American neighbours and from the U.S. Jewish community, which has mixed feelings about them.

While Israel tries to stem the "brain drain," the survey shows many Israelis are becoming more tolerant of emigrants and no longer see them as traitors.

"The fact is that today we have many educated, interested young men and women who want to see somewhere else and try out the opportunities. In a way it's normal," Shokzai said.

But Yossi Kucik is determined to fight the normalisation of emigration.

"People have to be told that emigration is not legitimate," he said. "This is not a normal country in a normal situation."

The immigration ministry has tried to recruit emigrants at Israeli high-technology fairs in the United States and paid scientists a year's salary tax-free to

Statistics show most Jews fleeing the Soviet Union and Iran choose the U.S. over Israel. When the Jewish agency tried to recruit 900 Iranian Jews currently living in Vienna for U.S. visas, only five agreed to try life in Israel.

"Emigration is not new. Don't forget most of Ben Gurion's and Golda Meir's generation turned around and went back to Europe or the United States," he said.

Those who attempt to kill themselves always look for an audience, as they are mainly after attention, and the TV serial sets an example for them," he told Reuters.

"Ways of committing suicide could spread like a fashion, there are examples of this in medical history."

Two weeks ago, a young woman and a 78-year-old man jumped to their deaths from the fourth and second floors of buildings in Istanbul.

A week ago, three people in Istanbul and two schoolgirls in the southern town of Adana were prevented from killing themselves in a similar manner.

Police arrested her history teacher, alleging she had killed herself after a love affair with him.

But the popular newspaper Sabah came out with banner headlines declaring: "The murderer of this girl is TRT (Turkish radio and television)."

Turkish television authorities deny that the incidents can be connected with the serial and say it will continue.

"If someone decides to commit suicide you cannot prevent him. World television broadcasts similar films," the Anatolian News Agency quoted TRT television chief Mehmet Turan Akkoymu, as saying.

But professor Yildirim Akturk

London's boat people can have hard time staying afloat

By Sandra Maler
Reuter

LONDON — "We'll be either upstairs or downstairs. It depends on the tide," Pamela Chapman said as she gave directions to her home.

She is one of the eccentric Londoners who opted out of the scramble for property on land and chose instead to live on the tide-swept Thames river which divides the city.

"You've got to be the sort of person who's pretty outgoing to live in a houseboat," Charles Edwards of Roy Brooks estate agents in fashionable Chelsea told Reuters. "I don't think it would suit the normal run-of-the-mill person."

"I don't think everybody likes the idea of living on water.

Although it's tied down, you can feel the rock," he added.

But even those who think they can handle the rock should think hard before buying a houseboat, the Residential Boat Owners Association cautions.

"You might find that you own the boat but are not allowed to live in it due to local regulations or bylaws," it warns in a booklet called Living Afloat.

"You may move all your valuable and treasured possessions aboard just before the boat sinks, explodes or catches fire, destroying everything," it adds. "Worse still, the boat might be badly built or maintained and you might get injured or killed."

Despite these hazards, houseboats have become increasingly popular and trendy in London, and more and more people are

choosing to live in a boat on the Thames or on London's Grand Union Canal instead of in a flat or house.

The association estimates that at least 15,000 people live afloat in Britain, with about 500 houseboats in London and requests a houseboat costs an average of \$80,000.

For \$4,000 sterling, one can get a 48-foot, two-bedroom boat, with a well-fitted kitchen — including washing machine, refrigerator, electric oven and hob — a sun deck and mooring within two minutes walk of Chelsea's famous Kings Road.

As Edwards remarked: "Houseboats are good value. You would not find a two-bedroom flat in Chelsea for \$4,000 sterling (\$80,000); 100,000 (\$148,000) would be more like it."

The association, which counts some 500 member boats, was created 25 years ago and has been fighting ever since for boat dwellers' rights.

The time is past when the Thames was so

Stars and Stripes stretches lead in America's Cup final

FREMANTLE, Australia (AP) — Dennis Conner took another step toward regaining the America's Cup Sunday by guiding Stars and Stripes to a provisional victory of 1 minute, 10 seconds over Kookaburra III. If the result is made official, it will give Conner a 2-0 lead in the best-of-seven finals.

In September 1983, while skipper of the yacht Liberty, he was beaten by Australia II at Newport, Rhode Island — after leading 3-1 — to become the first U.S. skipper to lose the cup since competition started in 1851.

Although Stars and Stripes crossed the line first, the outcome of Sunday's race will be decided by an international protest jury later Sunday. Kookaburra III raised the red protest flag before the race started. The Aussie yacht, skippered by Iain Murray, had to alter its course in order to avoid striking Stars and Stripes.

The wind was whipping at 22 knots from the south-southwest Sunday, an extreme change from the calm weather Saturday, when the U.S. challenger crushed Kookaburra III by 1:41 in calm seas.

On Sunday, Aussie helmsman Peter Gilmour started in the favoured windward position after some close circling and manoeuvring during the pre-start. Sunday's first leg was much closer than Saturday. Once again, however, Stars and Stripes was in front rounding the first buoy for the downwind run. The margin was 12 seconds.

The Americans were on the left side and the Aussies on the right at the start. After 14 minutes,

nearly halfway through the 3 1/4-mile windward beat, Kookaburra III turned to the right onto port tack.

Stars and Stripes did the same about 20 seconds later and appeared to take over the lead as a result of the manoeuvring. In the last half of the leg, the boats tacked several times but Kookaburra III couldn't move in front.

It was close enough, though, to try and block the wind into Conner's spinaker on the second leg.

But Kookaburra III wasn't that close at the end of the downwind run and trailed by 29 seconds.

The Aussie boat was reputed to be strong downwind. But on Saturday, it lost both downwind legs and a reach that turned into a run because of shifting winds.

Just past the halfway point of the second leg Sunday, Stars and Stripes jibed away from Kookaburra III, preventing it from keeping the wind from reaching the U.S. yacht.

Conner's yacht is considered better to windward and that was the direction of the third leg. But that was Kookaburra III's best leg Saturday when it cut Stars and Stripes' lead from 1:20 to 1:15 seconds.

It definitely wasn't on Sunday. Stars and Stripes, supposedly best suited for heavy weather,

charged through the moderate seas to a 1:14 advantage at the third mark.

Kookaburra III, less upright than its opponent throughout the leg, tacked several times, but the 44-year-old Conner kept a loose cover on it.

The fourth leg was a reach, with the wind coming from the side. It's unusual for a boat to be overtaken in that part of a race.

Stars and Stripes continued to lead comfortably, adding eight seconds to its advantage on the fourth leg, boosting it to 1:22 half-way through the race.

The wind kept blowing consistently from the south-southwest, favouring the yacht in front.

Shifting winds, like those that prevailed Saturday, give the trailing boat a chance to find a shift and overtake the leader.

Stars and Stripes lost five seconds off its lead, falling to 1:17 after the fifth leg as Kookaburra III tried to play catchup.

But on the sixth leg the Aussies lost time and trailed by 1:23. The wind picked up to 26 knots, packing a punch that could have caused gear problems.

It didn't happen on the seventh leg as Conner was far enough in front to play it safe.

Stars and Stripes took its spinnaker down about 20 seconds before the end of the downwind run rather than keep it up until the boat reached the buoy. That avoided potential equipment problems and cost the boat some time it could afford to lose.

Still, the Americans were ahead by 1:08, a loss of 15 seconds, heading toward the finish and victory.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Norwegian wins giant slalom

RUTLAND, Vermont (AP) — Edvin Halsnes of Norway, the defending tour champion, beat older brother Jarle Halsnes by .168 seconds in a U.S. Pro Tour giant slalom ski race on Saturday. The first run of the finals was a dead heat, and the brothers were again matched gate for gate in the second run until Edvin Halsnes moved ahead by a few feet near the end of the course. Despite the loss in Saturday's finals, Jarle Halsnes retained his points and money-winning lead in the season standings. He has 145 points and \$17,650 to Edvin Halsnes' 130 points and \$16,200.

Stewart leads Pebble Beach golf

PEBBLE BEACH, California (AP) — Payne Stewart battled the frustration of slow play and the annoyance of clicking cameras for a 3-under-par 69 that gave him 2-shot lead Saturday after three rounds of the \$600,000 Pebble Beach National Pro-Am golf tournament. "I guess I'm stuck on that number," said Stewart, who now has a 69 on each of three Monterey Peninsula courses, "but that's not to say I'm happy with it." Bernhard Langer of West Germany pitched in from 40 yards for an eagle-3 on his way to a 68 at Cypress Point that put him in a tie for second at 209 with Sandy Lyle of Scotland and Lanny Wadkins.

Norman, Davenport advance in squash

ANTWERP, Belgium (R) — New Zealanders Ross Norman, the world champion, and Stuart Davenport were convincing semifinal winners over unseeded opponents in the \$38,000 Belgian Grand Prix Squash Tournament. Defending champion Norman beat Sweden's Jonas Gomerup 9-2, 9-7, 9-1 and Davenport, the second seed, won 9-6, 9-5, 9-2 against Englishman Stuart Hailstone on Saturday night. Gomerup, winner over last year's runner-up Gawain Briers of Britain in the first round, was overrun by Norman who generously attributed the Swede's downfall to his earlier exertions. "I think Gomerup was too tired after playing two five-set matches in the previous rounds," Norman said.

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Canada, Ivory Coast win Davis Cup ties

CARACAS, Venezuela (Agencies)

— Glenn Michibata and Mark Greenan defeated Venezuela's Iaki Calvo and Valerio Boccitto in doubles Saturday to give Canada an unbeatable 3-0 lead in the first round of the American Zone Davis Cup tennis competition. Michibata teamed with Greenan to defeat Calvo and Boccitto 6-3, 6-3, 6-2, 6-4. On Friday, Canada's Martin

Wostenholme defeated Carlos Claverie and Michibata beat Nicolas Pereira in singles matches.

Although Sunday's "reverse" singles matches remain, Canada has clinched the best-of-five matches competition and advanced to the second round, which will be played March 13-15. Canada will meet Peru in the next round.

Greenan, ranked 283rd in world on the Hewlett-Packard ATP computer, was the decisive player in the doubles match.

Award Venezuelans sportscasters said the 20-year-old Canadian was overjoyed "a baseball bat, not a racket."

Calvo and Boccitto got off to a good start but were no match for Greenan's big serves — they never managed to break his service.

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NOTICE FOR STUDENTS INTERESTED IN STUDYING IN THE PHILIPPINES

The Philippines Embassy wishes to announce that the National College Entrance Examination, a pre-requisite for admission to Philippine colleges and universities, will be given in English at the Embassy on 27 February 1987, instead of 27 March as previously announced.

Deadline for submission of applications is 10 February 1987.

Those qualified to take the NCEE include students whose visa applications are being held pending their passing the NCEE.

For further information, interested parties may write to or call at the Philippine Embassy, its P.O. Box is 825207 and its telephone numbers are 645-161 and 643-421.

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Robinson takes lead in Daytona race

DAYTONA BEACH, Florida (AP) — Chip Robinson, teamed with defending champions Derek Bell of England and Al Unser Jr. in a Porsche 962 GT prototype, moved out to almost a full-lap lead as the Sunday portion of the Daytona 24-hour sports car endurance race began.

Still solidly in the hunt nine hours into the race at Daytona International Speedway, the lead lap.

The younger Unser, an Indy-car star, was at the wheel of his team's car when it beat Sullivan out onto the 3.56-mile (5.72-kilometre), 11-turn circuit following routine pit stops on lap 166, about 5½ hours into the grueling race.

Sullivan had inherited the lead from the 962 of West Germans Jochen Mass and Klaus Ludwig and American Bruce Leverett during the fifth hour.

In the next 30 minutes, Unser and Sullivan traded the lead once and kept America's only major 24-hour event unusually close.

The Foyle entry was slowed by brake problems, costing the team two laps. But, with the four-time Indianapolis 500 winner at the wheel in the ninth hour of the race, they made up both of the lost laps, running right at the end.

of the lead lap.

The leaders completed 280 laps in the first nine hours of the race, averaging 112.229 mph (180.576 kph).

Al Holbert, the owner of the second-place car, the defending IMSA Camel GT champion and along with the younger Unser and Bell, the defending champion in this race, said that despite the lead, his car was at a disadvantage to the Foyle car because it is running a somewhat smaller engine.

"We're all right, it's just slow," Holbert said. "When you get in traffic, you can't squeeze through it like the other cars. Derek (Bell) says it won't pull the skin off nice padding."

Bell, about to get back in the car, said, "I didn't really believe we'd be there (first) until mid-morning. We're driving an under-powered car. But the other guys are running a very fast pace and running into a lot of problems."

In the next 30 minutes, Unser and Sullivan traded the lead once and kept America's only major 24-hour event unusually close.

The Foyle entry was slowed by brake problems, costing the team two laps. But, with the four-time Indianapolis 500 winner at the wheel in the ninth hour of the race, they made up both of the lost laps, running right at the end.

ed portion of the Daytona speedway. But one of the slower cars sidled up the banking and whacked the suspension and underside of the car.

"I was taking the high line on the banking, passing a couple cars, and one of idiots came up and hit me in the rear," former Lemans winner Ludwig said. "I had nowhere to go."

The crew, working frantically, finally sent the Porsche back onto the track 25 laps behind. Two laps later, it was retired from the race because of a "bad vibration."

The Chevrolet Corvette GTP of Sarel Van Der Merwe of South Africa and Doc Bundy overcame some early suspension problems to move up to third, four laps behind the leader at the end of eight hours. But, as midnight approached, the car developed an engine problem and went into the pits and never returned.

The Corvette, which mass put on the pole position in qualifying Thursday, led most of the first five hours before being sent for a long distance event.

Third through sixth places at 12:30 a.m. (1730 GMT) were held by four more of the powerful and dominant Porsche 962s.

Fourth was the car shared by Rob Dyson, Price Cobb and Australian Vern Schup

Weekly Financial Report

By Fouad Batshon

The following report summarises trading activities in Amman of major European and Arab currencies as well as gold prices. The writer is a foreign exchange dealer at the Arab Finance Corporation (merged with Haim Salifit and Sons Co.)

AMMAN — Last week, the U.S. dollar opened weak and continued to slide to record lows in ten years against the Deutsche Mark (DM), the Swiss Franc (SF) and the Japanese yen.

On Friday the dollar moved higher on news that the East Europeans were buying huge amounts of dollars, expecting that the U.S. economic figures that were due to be released that day would be in favour of the dollar.

The trade balance figure released last on Friday was -10.7 down from -18.2 for the American economy, and on that news prompted the dealers to begin covering their short positions on the dollar.

The dollar traded against the Jordanian dinar (JD) between 0.3250 to 0.3380 fils.

In the local market, the demand for the U.S. dollar was extremely high, because many banks and financial companies wanted to cover their short positions on the dollar / JD.

Charts indicate that the dollar could move higher in the beginning of this week but by the mid week it will drop back to test the last week's lows. The expected

ranges for this week are to be 0.3300 to 0.3400 fils.

Trading in European currencies

The pound sterling moved higher on news that the oil prices will continue to score new highs internationally. The sterling between 0.5150 fils to 0.5350 fils.

The DM, SF and yen moved higher in the beginning of last week, but slipped to the week on the news of the American economic figures released on Friday.

The DM traded between 0.181 to 0.190 fils, the SF between 0.2150 to 0.2250 fils.

Trading in world metals

Profit-taking on the metals moved them to new lows this year and towards their support levels on the charts.

Gold prices moved lower from \$417 an ounce to \$397 an ounce and closed at \$404 an ounce. Silver also fell from \$5.72 an ounce to \$5.43 an ounce to close at \$5.52 an ounce.

Charts indicate that gold should be bought around the areas of (\$401 - \$403) an ounce.

Gold prices in Amman, based on the daily bulletins provided by the Jordan Jewellery Store, are as follows:

Gold per gramme 21 carats JD 3.50/JD3.850
Gold per gramme 18 carats JD 3.150/JD3.400

Jordan's output of cigarettes, alcoholic drinks fall sharply

AMMAN (J.T.) — Production of alcoholic beverages and cigarettes in Jordan declined sharply during November 1986, according to the monthly statistical bulletin issued by the Central Bank of Jordan.

The volume of production of alcoholic drinks stood at 410,600 litres in November, down about 30,000 litres from the previous month's output.

During July 1986, the production of alcoholic beverages amounted to 694,400 litres but since then the number has been decreasing steadily.

Since September 1984 the highest output has occurred in December 1984 when a total production of 1,062,900 litres were distilled. The lowest production figure during the aforementioned period was 262,400 litres during May 1986.

As for cigarettes, the production was down by about 47 million cigarettes from the October output of 303.2 million cigarettes.

Production of cigarettes averaged about 295 million a month during 1985 but last year (up to November) the average had been 277 million with highest output of 339.1 million cigarettes recorded in July.

Key Jordanian industry keeps high production

AMMAN (J.T.) — Phosphate production increased slightly during November 1986 but potash output did not keep up the upward momentum which started mid-summer last year.

The proposal, which will be presented to the Central Bank of Jordan's (CBJ's) monthly statistical bulletin, phosphate production increased by 5,400 tonnes over the 524,500 tonnes of output recorded during October 1986.

The highest production since September 1984 was achieved in July 1986 when 562,600 tonnes of phosphate were mined and processed. Covering the same period, the lowest production figure was 433,200 tonnes during the month of February 1986.

Potash output declined from 117,700 tonnes in October 1986 to 99,000 tonnes in November.

The October figure was the peak output ever of potash.

Since the beginning of 1986, when potash production dropped from 92,000 tonnes in January to 73,700 tonnes in February, the monthly output rose steadily except for the month of June when it fell to 76,000 tonnes before resuming a surge to over 100,000 tonnes in August.

Delegates said a few of the 50 producing countries attending the talks, which opened Wednesday, opposed the deal, while some others expressed reservations.

"The result of the meeting should be welcomed by all who want to have the coffee agreement in operation," he said, adding that he hoped importers would accept the proposal "in a positive spirit."

Export quotas, the ICO tool for regulating supplies and prices, are currently suspended. Their reintroduction now depends upon the support of leading importing countries, which include the United States, all Western European nations, Canada and Japan.

Coffee prices have fallen rapidly in recent months, with the average price, computed by the

International Coffee Organization, down 15.5 million bags.

Proposed quotas for other leading producers include Colombia, 8.99 million, Ivory Coast, 4.16 million, Indonesia, 2.56 million, Uganda, 2.46 million, El Salvador, 2.40 million, Mexico, 2.07 million, Guatemala, 1.92 million, Kenya, 1.38 million, and Costa Rica, 1.23 million.

Delegates said producers also agreed the text of a declaration stating that they would not carry out unilateral action in the marketplace to support prices.

They noted that the United States has expressed considerable concern about reported attempts at market manipulation by some producers and was seeking a promise of non-intervention as a condition of being prepared to cooperate in the reintroduction of export quotas.

The measures were decided by the week-long 56th conference of the liaison officers of the boycott office, which ended Saturday.

The conference also banned dealings with 26 Indian companies which make and trade in diamonds, the importation of Pierre Cardin cigarettes and products of the Japanese Nippon Telegraph and Telephone equipments.

Other companies blacklisted by the conference are: ASE EIA, Norway; Unitec Manufacturers S.A., Spain; Demiflex Del Cobre, Spain; Electrolis Del Cobre, Spain; Sciaky, France; Solcoor, Canada; Comex SAS, Bosco Industrie Mecaniche SPA and Comex International Division (CID).

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The conference also banned dealings

Philippine troops hunt rebel soldiers on eve of plebiscite

MANILA (R) — Philippine Troops hunted 200 rebel soldiers in hilly terrain north of Manila Sunday as the military was placed on red alert to prevent unrest ahead of a crucial plebiscite Monday on a new constitution.

Military sources told Reuters the rebels, who had planned to join last Tuesday's foiled coup, escaped under cover of darkness Saturday after a shoot-out with government troops.

The sources said the rebel group fled into the rocky Sierra Madre range after leaving behind a large cache of sophisticated weapons at a farmhouse owned by Gregorio Araneta III, a son-in-law of exiled President Ferdinand Marcos.

Five rebels were captured, but helicopter gunships tracking the rest failed to find them by nightfall, the sources said.

Military sources said the nationwide alert and surveillance of officers considered to be pro-Marcos were ordered to head off any repetition of last week's revolt by some 400 soldiers.

The Manila Bulletin quoted police intelligence sources as saying patrols were stepped up after reports that Marcos supporters would try to disrupt Monday's poll by snatching ballot boxes and intimidating voters and watchdog organisations.

Military sources said the Sierra

CIA said to have shipped arms to UNITA via Zaire

NEW YORK (R) — The U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), in a highly secret operation, used an abandoned air base in southern Zaire to airdrop arms to guerrillas in Angola, the New York Times reported Sunday.

The Times quoted diplomatic and business sources in Zaire as saying that three times last year, C-130 and Boeing 707 cargo jets with the markings "Santa Lucia Airways" arrived at the base in Kamina with arms shipments.

The CIA said it would not confirm or deny any reports of the operation.

One diplomat told the newspaper the operation was directed by a black American known as "colonel."

Zaire and Angola signed a mutual non-aggression pact in 1985, and Zairean President Mobutu Sese Seko has repeatedly denied allegations that U.S. aid to Angolan rebels led by Jonas Savimbi passes through Zaire.

Savimbi's National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA), which the paper said received supplies mainly from South Africa, is fighting to overthrow Angola's Marxist government.

U.S. aid to UNITA — \$15 million last year — began in 1985, but U.S. officials have refused to reveal the supply route. Transfer through South Africa "would violate a U.S. embargo on shipping arms there."

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF

1986 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

ANSWER TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♦K10 ♦K16 ♦Q954
Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with one club. What action do you take?

A.—You have an excellent offensive hand, which could play well in any of the nubid suits. Despite the fact that your spade suit is so much stronger than the others, we prefer a takenout double to an overcall of one spade.

Q.2—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♦K10 ♦K954 ♦A98 ♦J76

Partner opens the bidding with five clubs. What action do you take?

A.—Partner's preempt shows a long, strong club suit and the ability to take eight tricks with his suit as trumps. Your hand certainly has plenty of play for four tricks, so we would commit the hand to slam. However, to prevent a lead through our king of spades, which could result in the loss of two tricks right of the bat, we could elect to play in six trump rather than six clubs.

Q.3—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♦A7 ♦K4 ♦J102 ♦A954

The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass

What action do you take?

A.—You could hardly ask for a better spot for the opponents to play the hand. However, if you double East might decide that his side does have a better contract after all, and take some action. At this vulnerability, you will get 100 points for every trick you defeat the contract. Pass, and be satisfied with possibly a small profit.

Q.4—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♦A7 ♦K4 ♦J102 ♦A954

The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ 3 ♠ Pass Pass

What action do you take?

A.—Partner has just bought himself a contract. You have more than you have promised to this point, but the hand has all the earmarks of a misfit and you have no sure source of tricks. Therefore, don't even think about two no trump. Pass.

Q.5—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♦A8 ♦A7652 ♦A91063 ♦K5
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass

What action do you take?

A.—Partner is not showing much strength, but since he did not take some sort of preference he should have a fair six-card suit. Your hand is just worth one more move, and the recommended action is a raise to three spades—nothing else is likely to stir him.

Q.6—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♦A7 ♦A983 ♦A91063 ♦K5
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass

What action do you take?

A.—You might or might not have the values to make three no trump. However, you can almost certainly defeat two diamonds, since you rate to take at least five tricks in your own hand. Double. Should partner have the values for your side to make three no trump, you can look forward to a handsome penalty. In any event, should they make their contract, you won't have doubled them into game.

Q.7—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♦A8 ♦A77 ♦A83 ♦K110652

The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass

What action do you take?

A.—Partner has just bought himself a contract. You have more than you have promised to this point, but the hand has all the earmarks of a misfit and you have no sure source of tricks. Therefore, don't even think about two no trump. Pass.

Q.8—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♦A7 ♦K4 ♦J102 ♦A954

The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ 3 ♠ Pass Pass

What action do you take?

A.—You could hardly ask for a better spot for the opponents to play the hand. However, if you double East might decide that his side does have a better contract after all, and take some action. At this vulnerability, you will get 100 points for every trick you defeat the contract. Pass, and be satisfied with possibly a small profit.

Q.9—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♦A7 ♦K4 ♦J102 ♦A954

The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ 3 ♠ Pass Pass

What action do you take?

A.—Partner has just bought himself a contract. You have more than you have promised to this point, but the hand has all the earmarks of a misfit and you have no sure source of tricks. Therefore, don't even think about two no trump. Pass.

Q.10—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♦A7 ♦K4 ♦J102 ♦A954

The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass

What action do you take?

A.—Partner has just bought himself a contract. You have more than you have promised to this point, but the hand has all the earmarks of a misfit and you have no sure source of tricks. Therefore, don't even think about two no trump. Pass.

Q.11—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♦A7 ♦K4 ♦J102 ♦A954

The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ 3 ♠ Pass Pass

What action do you take?

A.—You could hardly ask for a better spot for the opponents to play the hand. However, if you double East might decide that his side does have a better contract after all, and take some action. At this vulnerability, you will get 100 points for every trick you defeat the contract. Pass, and be satisfied with possibly a small profit.

Q.12—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♦A7 ♦K4 ♦J102 ♦A954

The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ 3 ♠ Pass Pass

What action do you take?

A.—Partner has just bought himself a contract. You have more than you have promised to this point, but the hand has all the earmarks of a misfit and you have no sure source of tricks. Therefore, don't even think about two no trump. Pass.

Q.13—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♦A7 ♦K4 ♦J102 ♦A954

The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass

What action do you take?

A.—Partner has just bought himself a contract. You have more than you have promised to this point, but the hand has all the earmarks of a misfit and you have no sure source of tricks. Therefore, don't even think about two no trump. Pass.

Q.14—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♦A7 ♦K4 ♦J102 ♦A954

The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ 3 ♠ Pass Pass

What action do you take?

A.—You could hardly ask for a better spot for the opponents to play the hand. However, if you double East might decide that his side does have a better contract after all, and take some action. At this vulnerability, you will get 100 points for every trick you defeat the contract. Pass, and be satisfied with possibly a small profit.

Q.15—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♦A7 ♦K4 ♦J102 ♦A954

The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ 3 ♠ Pass Pass

What action do you take?

A.—Partner has just bought himself a contract. You have more than you have promised to this point, but the hand has all the earmarks of a misfit and you have no sure source of tricks. Therefore, don't even think about two no trump. Pass.

Q.16—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♦A7 ♦K4 ♦J102 ♦A954

The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass

What action do you take?

A.—Partner has just bought himself a contract. You have more than you have promised to this point, but the hand has all the earmarks of a misfit and you have no sure source of tricks. Therefore, don't even think about two no trump. Pass.

Q.17—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♦A7 ♦K4 ♦J102 ♦A954

The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ 3 ♠ Pass Pass

What action do you take?

A.—You could hardly ask for a better spot for the opponents to play the hand. However, if you double East might decide that his side does have a better contract after all, and take some action. At this vulnerability, you will get 100 points for every trick you defeat the contract. Pass, and be satisfied with possibly a small profit.

Q.18—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♦A7 ♦K4 ♦J102 ♦A954

The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ 3 ♠ Pass Pass

What action do you take?

A.—Partner has just bought himself a contract. You have more than you have promised to this point, but the hand has all the earmarks of a misfit and you have no sure source of tricks. Therefore, don't even think about two no trump. Pass.

Q.19—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♦A7 ♦K4 ♦J102 ♦A954

The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass

What action do you take?

A.—Partner has just bought himself a contract. You have more than you have promised to this point, but the hand has all the earmarks of a misfit and you have no sure source of tricks. Therefore, don't even think about two no trump. Pass.

Q.20—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♦A7 ♦K4 ♦J102 ♦A954

The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ 3 ♠ Pass Pass

What action do you take?

A.—You could hardly ask for a better spot for the opponents to play the hand. However, if you double East might decide that his side does have a better contract after all, and take some action. At this vulnerability, you will get 100 points for every trick you defeat the contract. Pass, and be satisfied with possibly a small profit.

Q.21—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♦A7 ♦K4 ♦J102 ♦A954

The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ 3 ♠ Pass Pass

What action do you take?

A.—Partner has just bought himself a contract. You have more than you have promised to this point, but the hand has all the earmarks of a misfit and you have no sure source of tricks. Therefore, don't even think about two no trump. Pass.

Q.22—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♦A7 ♦K4 ♦J102 ♦A954

The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass

What action do you take?

A.—Partner has just bought himself a contract. You have more than you have promised to this point, but the hand has all the earmarks of a misfit and you have no sure source of tricks. Therefore, don't even think about two no trump. Pass.

Q.23—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♦A7 ♦K4 ♦J102 ♦A954

The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ 3 ♠ Pass Pass

What action do you take?

A.—You could hardly ask for a better spot for the opponents to play the hand. However, if you double East might decide that his side does have a better contract after all, and take some action. At this vulnerability, you will get 100 points for every trick you defeat the contract. Pass, and be satisfied with possibly a small profit.

Q.24—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♦A7 ♦K4 ♦J102 ♦A954

The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ 3 ♠ Pass Pass

What action do you take?

A.—Partner has just bought himself a contract. You have more than you have promised to this point, but the hand has all the earmarks of a misfit and you have no sure source of tricks. Therefore, don't even think about two no trump. Pass.

Q.25—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♦A7 ♦K4 ♦J102 ♦A954

The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass

What action do you take?

A.—Partner has just bought himself a contract. You have more than you have promised to this point, but the hand has all the earmarks of a misfit and you have no sure source of tricks. Therefore, don't even think about two no trump. Pass.

Q.26—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♦A7 ♦K4 ♦J102 ♦A954

The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ 3 ♠ Pass